

REMARKS

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 1-3, 5-17, 19-27 and 86 were pending in this application prior to this Amendment. By this amendment, claims 1 and 86 are amended. No new matter has been introduced by this amendment. Claims 15-17 and 19-27 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of any subject matter.

Applicant wishes to thank to the Examiner for the courtesy extended in the telephone interview conducted on December 17, 2007. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application in view of the foregoing amendment and following remarks. Applicant have amended the claims according to the proposed claim presented to the Examiner during the telephone interview.

II. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 8, 12-15, 17, 19-21, 25-27 and 86 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,072,912 to Orito (hereafter, "Orito") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,771,106 to Taguchi, et al. (hereafter, "Taguchi") and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,679,074 to Sugiura, et al. (hereafter, "Sugiura").

Claims 2, 6 and 16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Orito, Taguchi and Sugiura and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,875,260 to Ohta (hereafter, "Ohta").

Claims 9-11 and 22-24 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Orito, Taguchi and Sugiura and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,728,008 to Kamisuwa (hereafter, "Kamisuwa").

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the claims in view of the amendments now presented herein. Independent claim 1 has been amended for further clarification to recite *inter alia*,

"An image sensing system constituted by connecting an image sensing apparatus and image processing apparatus,...

said image processing apparatus comprising:...

a line spacing correction unit adapted to correct the image data for line deviations between the plurality of colors based on the spacing between the plurality of photoelectric conversion element arrays;

a generation unit adapted to generate image sensing characteristic correction data on the basis of the spatial positional deviations of the plurality of colors of pixel signals; and

an image sensing characteristic correction unit adapted to correct influence of an image sensing characteristic on the line-deviation-corrected image data using the image sensing characteristic correction data generated by said generation unit.”

Applicant respectfully submits that Orito, Taguchi and Sugiura, taken either alone or in combination do not teach or suggest “an image sensing characteristic correction unit adapted to correct influence of an image sensing characteristic on the line-deviation-corrected image data using the image sensing characteristic correction data generated by said generation unit”, as recited in amended independent claim 1. Independent claim 86 has been amended to recite similar features to amended claim 1 as described herein.

The Office Action concedes on page three that Orito does not disclose that “said image sensing characteristic correction unit...corrects the influence of an image sensing characteristic”. However, the Office Action asserts that Taguchi discloses the above recited feature.

Applicant submits that the present invention is directed to image correction in an image sensing system including an image sensing apparatus and an image processing apparatus. The line spacing correction circuit 153 of the present invention (shown in Fig. 17), which corresponds to the line spacing correction unit of amended claim 1, corrects the line spacing of the CCD line sensor 101 as described on page 52, line 22 to page 53, line 4. Further, as shown in Fig. 26, if there are 8-lines between the R line and the G line, and 8-lines between the G line and the B line, the line spacing correction circuit 153 corrects these 8-line spacing differences.

The color misregistration correction circuit 758, which corresponds to the image sensing characteristic correction unit of amended claim 1, further corrects the remaining slight deviation specific to the characteristics of the image sensing unit, such as the spectral deviation caused when the light passes through the lens 3005 (see dotted lines α and β in Fig. 26; and page 54, lines 18-25). The amount of spatial deviation varies in accordance with the characteristics of the lens 3005. This correction can eliminate the blur as shown in Fig. 27B and obtain a clear image as shown in Fig. 27A.

In amended claim 1, the spectral deviation is expressed as “image sensing characteristic correction data on the basis of the spatial positional deviations of the plurality of

colors of pixel signals". The image sensing characteristic correction unit further corrects the line-deviation corrected image data based on the image sensing characteristic correction data generated by the generation unit.

By contrast, the inter-line correction memories 326, 327 as disclosed on column 14, lines 24-32 of Taguchi adjust the time delay between B and G image data and that between B and R image data for a number of lines.

Thus, it is apparent that the inter-line correction memories 326 and 327, as taught by Taguchi, merely correct line deviations between the plurality of colors. Taguchi does not teach or suggest further correcting the line-deviation corrected image data for the slight deviation specific to the characteristics of the image sensing unit, such as the spectral deviation between R, G and B light flux as shown by the dotted lines α and β in Fig. 26 of the present invention.

Therefore, Taguchi does not teach or suggest the image sensing characteristic correction unit as recited in amended claim 1.

Furthermore, Orito, Sugiura, Kamisuwa and Ohta do not teach or suggest further correcting line-deviation corrected image data for the deviation caused due to the characteristics of the image sensing unit. As a result, Orito, Sugiura, Kamisuwa and Ohta do not remedy the discrepancies discussed with respect to Taguchi above.

In view of the above, amended independent claim 1 is believed distinguishable from the cited references (i.e., Orito, Taguchi, Sugiura, Kamisuwa and Ohta) for at least the reasons discussed above.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 86 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

Applicant has chosen in the interest of expediting prosecution of this patent application to distinguish the cited documents from the pending claims as set forth above. However, these statements should not be regarded in any way as admissions that the cited documents are, in fact, prior art.

Applicant has not specifically addressed the rejections of the dependent claims because Applicant submits that the independent claims from which they respectively depend, either directly or indirectly, are in condition for allowance as set forth above. Accordingly, the dependent claims also are in condition for allowance. Applicant, however, reserves the right to address such rejections of the dependent claims should such be necessary.

In reply to Final Office Action dated 09/21/2007

Applicant believes that the application as amended is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims and allowance of this application.

AUTHORIZATION

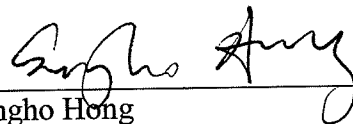
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-4677. A DUPLICATE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS ATTACHED.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No 13-4500, Order No. 1232-4677. A DUPLICATE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS ATTACHED.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: December 20, 2007

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